

March 14, 1984

LB 880

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: That includes the University and other employees. If we go with the committee amendment we are going to see that increased to \$16.7 million. That is an 8.4 percent increase. We don't need to have that increase. If we went with the proposal that the Governor originally planned, which is to have co-payments and deductibles, deducted from that the dental coverage which was put in there to try and appease the state employees and show them that we were trying to be reasonable, but they didn't particularly want to be reasonable and so they have opposed any effort to change their health insurance plan. So I think we need to deal with the dental coverage separately. If we went with the self-insurance plan which has the co-payments and deductibles this state would actually reduce the cost of health care for the next year, for the first time in quite some time. We would have, not the 25 or 23 percent increases annually that we've seen in the last couple of years but we would hold the line on health care insurance premium cost. As a matter of fact if we went with the Governor's plan without the self-insurance feature we would actually save about, oh, \$700,000 or something like that from last year. We can hold the line. We can save money and we can do the right thing in terms of health policy in this state if we reject the committee amendments and deal with this bill on the basis of which the Governor's task force drew it up. Now keep in mind, the task force was a group of experts that were employer representatives that knew about health insurance that had come in and devised the best possible plan to hold down health care costs for the state for the state employees.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Kilgarin.

SENATOR KILGARIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask Senator Wesely if he would be so kind as to yield to a